May 1, 1989

Dear Mom,

I deeply regret having to bring you the news of Freddy's transition last Thursday, April 27, 1989. His final days and weeks were so very difficult both for him and for Ben, his life partner, that we all felt some degree of relief when it was all over.

I've just returned from the memorial service at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). Just walking into the church choked me up because Freddy had been so much a part of MCC. He had often functioned as organist or pianist for many of the church's services and frequently sang in the choir. Hearing that great organ making it rich sounds now especially for Freddy made me all the more aware of the great talent we had lost.

All those who spoke at the ceremony mentioned Freddy's incredible sense of humor. And as they each shared little anecdotes that were so typical of Freddy's irreverence, outrageousness, and spontaneity they had us laughing through our tears. We have all been deeply enriched by Freddy's remarkable gift of song and laughter. As much as I want to celebrate his life and the joy of having known him, today all I can feel is the pain of another separation that came too soon.

Freddy's passing represents the fifth such personal loss I've experienced in five months. There just hasn't been enough time between losses to complete the grieving process. So I keep my fingers crossed and hope that this will be the last one for a while.

I don't know who was taking care of city government today, because the mayor and almost the entire City Council of San Diego were present at today's memorial service. A nice tribute to Freddy, Ben, and our community.

Though I continue to be physically challenged, I am blessed with the ability to continue my work with the Archives and other community functions. Because this is the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall riots (in New York City) which sparked the modern lesbian/gay liberation movement, there is a great deal of interest in the history of the movement, and consequently, the Archives have taken on a new level of importance. That's good for the public relations of the Archives, but the increased demand for our services can sometimes be a challenge.

Well, today would have been a busy day even without settting things aside to take time out for Freddy's memorial service. So, I'll close for now and hope that I have happier news the next time I write.

Love in the struggle,

Bob